

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO  
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS  
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
P.O. BOX 119  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE  
ON  
March 26, 2008

S.B. 2583, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII CAPITAL CULTURAL  
DISTRICT**

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. 2583, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of this bill and has comments for this Committee to consider. DAGS would like to point out that the Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is not named as a member of the task force but is directed to serve as its chair. This is inconsistent. DAGS would also suggest that someone other than the Director of SFCA serve as the chair. This would provide assurance that the task force recommendations reflect the perspectives of the entire capital cultural district and not overemphasize the desires of the Hawaii State Art Museum over which the Director has administrative control.

DAGS would be willing to serve as a member of the task force if it continues to be listed as a member and this bill is passed. DAGS would like to emphasize that it would be opposed to this bill if it takes away from projects in the administration's budget submittal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

THE  
STATE  
FOUNDATION  
ON  
CULTURE  
AND  
THE ARTS

TESTIMONY  
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STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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S. B. 2583 SD1 HD1



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PETER ROSEGG  
GEORJA SKINNER

RONALD K. YAMAKAWA  
Executive Director

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on S. B. 2583 SD1 HD1.

The Hawaii State Art Museum (HiSAM) currently occupies 12,000 square feet – three galleries - in the No. 1 Capitol District Building. Amenities include an extensively used Multipurpose Room, a volunteer resource room, a small kitchenette, and leased spaces for the Downtown @ the HiSAM café and museum gift shop.

If funding priorities would allow, HiSAM would continue to develop beyond the founding vision for the museum. Additional requirements include space for ongoing workshops, docent training, and completion of the Visitor's Center. Storage areas for the café and gift shop would also be secured and staffing needed for more programming and facilities management would be added.

In addition, the museum itself is limited to two galleries, both of which feature rotating exhibitions of modest size and scope in keeping with available space. The HiSAM envisions that if funding were made available, it would house displays of stellar works of art primarily by local artists that would serve to symbolize the State Collection's public

No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 South Hotel Street, 2nd Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Administration: (808) 586-0300  
Art in Public Places: (808) 586-0304  
Contracts: (808) 586-0302  
FAX: (808) 586-0308  
TT: (808) 586-0740  
E-mail: sfca@sfca.state.hi.us  
Web Page: www.hawaii.gov/sfca

image, identity and importance. These displays would in turn be complimented by exhibits designed to feature themes, master artists, cultural works, and displays pertinent to community development.

This was the intent of the Warnecke Plan, also referred to as the "Hawaii State Capitol Civic Center Master Plan," approved by Governor Burns and Mayor Blaisdell. The plan envisioned the Capitol District as a cultural center for residents and visitors, as well as the seat of State government. Extending the breadth of the museum's programming, as well as its physical presence beside the State Capitol, will further enhance the Capitol District as a cultural tourism destination for visitors and a historical and educational center for residents, particularly Hawaii's youth. This objective is prioritized in our agency's current strategic plan and will continue to be prominent in our next strategic plan that takes effect in July 2008.

To grow and develop the Hawaii State Art Museum, its programs and staffing, added space would be required. However, in light of the State's economic condition, we are concerned that an appropriation for the work of the task force may not be feasible. In our testimony for SCR 225, on which I will testify tomorrow, we suggest that an alternate resolution be passed recommending that, as other agencies vacate the No. 1 Capitol District Building, the vacated space be assigned to the museum and the SFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.